

When Heaven Invades Earth: A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles

by Bill Johnson

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In the book, *When Heaven Invades Earth: A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles* by Bill Johnson, he discussed when Jesus ministered on earth, there were demonstrations of His power in word and deed. However, there is much controversy on the topic of healing within and outside the church. Are healings supposed to be everyday occurrences or only in rare instances? Who is given the ability to perform the healings? Who qualifies to receive a miracle? Jesus told the disciples that they would do works greater than the works He had done (see Jn. 14:12). Therefore, why does the church in the West see so few miracles or, if any?

Johnson covers many topics in this book which intertwine with healing, but the following are some main points. Christians long to experience the "supernatural" as we are wired for that (Johnson 2003, 25). Faith is the starting point that moves beyond intellect and opens opportunities for the impossible to happen (Johnson 2003, 47). A relationship that cries out in hunger for God in true repentance and dependence creates a heart that will hear what the Holy Spirit has to say (Johnson 2003, 37-39). The Holy Spirit directs who to speak to, where to go and what to pray for when people need healing. Obedience, surrender to what the Holy Spirit reveals, brings about the release for the kingdom of God to come in power. Risk is part of trusting that it is a God-sized task for healing and He alone gets the glory.

Johnson made it clear that miracles were to be a regular part of a Christian's life that works to increase faith and bring others to Christ. Yet, I have not met a Christian that has performed a miracle where it takes place in front of us (e.g. a person's shorter than normal leg grows in front of you). I have had impressions when praying for a person that he or she would be healed, but the healing occurred over a period of time. I had faith to believe one time that a person who died "prematurely" from cancer would be resurrected, but I hesitated to pray because that particular church was so against any manifestations of the spiritual gifts. Additionally, I was afraid it would backfire if the person did not resurrect and they would ostracize me or worse yet, think I was mentally insane. This type of fear deters people in the church from ministering with healing prayer. This book helped me realize what happens when fear grips my heart.

The Holy Spirit is the one that provides the power and the faith to believe for the impossible. "Fear is faith in the devil; it is also called unbelief... It attracts the demonic in the same way as bitterness and hatred (Johnson 2003, 50)." Therefore for my heart to grow in faith, I need to know God's Word and the Holy Spirit to illuminate it, and give me power to live it. (Johnson 2003, 49-50). It is taking the risk to pray what is in the heavenly realm on earth.

I agree with Johnson that healing is for today and that the church needs to reflect the book of Acts. I agree that a revival can be missed by not having the eyes of our hearts open to what God is doing and by not *desperately* seeking Him. God builds our faith with supernatural experiences with Him. I agree we all want to receive God's blessings, but I disagree with his statement on page 73 that states it would be okay if a person kept returning to receive a blessing. I think that would be time consuming (maybe even annoying) and if the whole church were to keep going up for a blessing, service would not finish. Also, that elevates the person praying rather than encouraging the person to seek God for himself for a blessing.

When people see the works of the Holy Spirit being performed through ordinary people to reveal secret things and working to heal everyday people, it opens the door for them to accept Jesus. This provides a platform for people to know the compassionate heart of God. "How can I pray for you?" is one of the ways I would like to conduct ministry. It

lets people know we serve a *living and powerful* God. This requires the filling of the Holy Spirit to reveal what the Father's heart is. Jesus did and said only what the Father told Him to do (Jn. 8:28). Releasing what is in the heavenly realm on earth is the way to pray and point them to Jesus.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Johnson, Bill. 2003. *When Heaven Invades Earth: A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles*. Shippensburg, PA: Treasure House -- Destiny Image Publishers.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly but Completely \_\_\_100\_\_\_%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly and NOT Completely \_\_\_\_\_%

Not at all

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Linda Chen\_\_\_\_\_